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Marked-up Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7

Please amend Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 as follows:

4. (Amended) Process according to Claim 2 [Claim 2 or 3], characterized in that said reaction gas mixture successively encounters said first inert porous material, said catalytic bed [(5)] and said second inert porous material [(6)] within a vertical cylindrical reactor [(1)], the ends of which are filled with one or other of said inert porous materials and the central part of which is filled with said catalytic bed [(5)], and in that the reactor is fed in alternate mode in the following way:

i) the reaction gas mixture is introduced in the lower part of the reactor [(1)] and the mixture comprising the hydrogen and the CO is collected at the upper part of the reactor [(1)], or

ii) the reaction gas mixture is introduced in the upper part of the reactor [(1)] and the mixture comprising the hydrogen and the CO is collected at the lower part of the reactor [(1)],

passing from one of the introduction modes ((i) (ii)) to the other as a function of the advance of the combustion front inside the reactor.

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Marked-up Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7

5. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1 [one of Claims 1 to 4], characterized in that the preheating of said porous medium is carried out using electrical elements situated at the periphery of the reactor.

6. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1 [one of Claims 1 to 4], characterized in that the preheating of said porous medium is carried out by circulating therein, prior to said introduction of the reaction mixture, a preheating gas mixture comprising a hydrocarbon and oxygen in proportions which make possible total combustion.

7. (Amended) Process according to Claim 2 [either of Claims 2 and 3], characterized in that said reaction gas mixture successively encounters said first inert porous material, said catalytic bed [(5)] and said second inert porous material [(6)] within a reactor exhibiting the following arrangement:

- a first cylinder [(40)] comprising, at its lower end, means [(41)] for introducing said reaction gas mixture;

- a second cylinder [(42)] of smaller diameter than said first cylinder, inserted into said first cylinder [(40)] so that its upper end is situated at a distance from the upper end of the first cylinder [(40)] and so that its lower end, via

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Marked-up Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7

which the mixture comprising the hydrogen and the CO is collected, emerges outside the first cylinder [(40)];

- said first inert porous material [(43)] filling at least a portion of the height of the annular space defined by the internal wall of the first cylinder [(40)] and the external wall of the second cylinder [(42)];

- said catalytic bed [(44)] filling the upper part of the first cylinder [(40)] and/or that of the second cylinder [(42)];

- said second inert porous material [(45)] filling the lower part of the second cylinder [(42)].